

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-9 and 12-17 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has allowed claim 12 and found that claim 6 would also be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of claim 6 and have canceled claim 6. Thus claim 1, as amended, now recites allowable subject matter.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. WO 02/072719 taken in view of the evidence given in Shimizu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,928,220). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the amendment of claim 1, discussed above, to include the subject matter found allowable in claim 6, applicants submit that claim 1 and all dependent claims thereon are now in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new claims 13-17 which depend upon allowed claim 12 and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000209/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By /Gregory A. Stobbs/
Gregory A. Stobbs
Registration No.: 28,764
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1214
Attorney for Applicant